

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3104
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
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E9O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUR TECH IN US
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR EDITORIALS

1. THE JULY 31 EDITION OF THE "STATESMAN" CARRIES AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "CONFUSING FALL-OUT" WHICH CLAIMS THAT PRIME MINISTER DESAI DOES NOT GRASP THE MEANING OF THE TERMS HE USES WHEN HE MAKES STATEMENTS ABOUT GOI NUCLEAR POLICY. IT CITES THE CONFUSION CREATED BY HIS RECENT REMARKS ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND BLASTS AS A CASE IN POINT. THE EDITORIAL ALSO CHALLENGED DESAI'S REMARK THAT THE 1974 POKHARAN TEST WAS DONE "ONLY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES", AND SAID THE TEST HAD LEGITIMATE SCIENTIFIC AIMS. THE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT DESAI MAY HAVE FELT COMPELLED TO MAKE HIS POLICY STATEMENT AGAINST EXPLOSIONS IN ORDER TO REASSURE POTENTIAL NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIERS ABOUT INDIAN INTENTIONS BUT THAT HE HAD NOT SUCCEEDED BECAUSE CONTINUED FUEL SUPPLIES FOR TARAPUR HAVE NOT BEEN ASSURED. THE EDITORIAL THEN CONCLUDES ON AN APPARENTLY CONTRADICTIONARY NOTE STATING ON THE ONE HAND THAT DESAI CAN CLAIM THAT HE HAS MADE NO COMPROMISE ON
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BASIC POLICY WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND POINTING OUT THAT DESAI HAS QUALIFIED HIS PREVIOUSLY UNEQUIVOCAL DECLARATION AND SAID THAT HIS DECISIONS WILL NOT BE BINDING ON FUTURE GOVERNMENTS.

2. THE JULY 30 ISSUE OF THE CONGRESS(I)-ORIENTED "NATIONAL HERALD" CARRIES ONE OF THE STRONGEST ANTI-

AMERICAN EDITORIALS WE HAVE SEEN IN SOME TIME. RAISING
A NUMBER OF ISSUES THE EDITORIAL PORTRAYS AMERICAN POLICY
AS BEING ANTITHETICAL TO THE INTERESTS OF INDIA. ON THE
ISSUE OF FUEL SUPPLIES FOR TARAPUR AND THE NPT IT SUGGESTS
THAT INDIA WAS ABLE TO WITHSTAND AMERICAN EFFORTS TO GAIN
CONTROL OVER THE ENTIRE INDIAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY, INCLUDING
RESEARCH. THE EDITORIAL ATTRIBUTES THIS EFFORT TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE PENTAGON, AND
AMERICAN BUSINESS. THE EDITORIAL FINDS EVIDENCE OF
THESE INTERESTS IN SUCH TRADITIONAL RED HERRING ISSUES
AS DIEGO GARCIA AND THE U.S. SEVENTH FLEET IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN, SPYING DEVICES IN THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS, THE
ACTIVITIES OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, AND PURPORTED
U.S. POLICY TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA.
THE EDITORIAL OFFERS AS EVIDENCE OF THE LAST, A
THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE WHICH ALLEGEDLY CONTAINS
ANTI-INDIAN PROVISIONS ON KASHMIR AND ENCOURAGEMENT
TO PEKING ON THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER ISSUE. IN
CONCLUSION IT TAKES A FINAL SWIPE AT THE 'SUPERFLOUS'
PEACE CORPS AND ALLEGES PEACE CORPS PAST INTERFERENCE
IN INDIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

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